

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM CHARGE

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID GH US
SUB: US-GHANA RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: I STRONGLY URGE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOG FOR INITIATION OF NEW US ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES, SPECIFICALLY MIDAS PROJECT. COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT SUCH ACTION IS CLEARLY AND STRONGLY IN US INTEREST AND THAT IT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

2. AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT CANCELLATION IN APRIL, THE US WAS ON THE VERGE OF SIGNING AN AGREEMENT TO INITIATE THE HIGHLY COMPLEX MANAGED INPUT DELIVERY AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES (MIDAS) PROJECT DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO BENEFIT GHANA'S RURAL POOR IN A MANNER FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE. THIS PROGRAM AS PLANNED WOULD TAKE US ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO PEOPLE IN NEED RATHER THAN ASSISTING THE GOG BY ALLEVIATING THE GOVERNMENT'S SHORTAGES OF RESOURCES. THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE HEAD OF STATE, AND PEOPLE IS ONE WHICH WE BELIEVE IS KEY TO OUR ACTIONS. IN OUR VIEW, THE USG PROPERLY INDICATED ITS DISPLEASURE TO THE GOG BY WITHDRAWING OUR AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HER PROMOTION TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF PROTOCOL MAY ALSO BE READ BY THE GOG AS SUPPORT OF HER
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EFFORTS HERE AND OF OUR DESIRE TO REMOVE SUCH A NOTABLE PERSON

FROM GHANA AS A MEANS OF REACTION. THE FACT THAT THE US WAS DISPLEASED WITH GHANA HAS CLEARLY REGISTERED WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE HEAD OF STATE WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY NERVOUS IN HIS LAST MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR. WE WISH TO REMIND THAT CANCELLATION DECISION WAS MADE BY THE HEAD OF STATE WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE OBVIOUSLY VERY UPSET AT THE TIME. SINCE THEN WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS FROM VARIOUS SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY CIVILIANS, OF THEIR DISGUST FOR THE "STUPIDITY" OF THE ACTION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO GHANAIAAN OFFICIALDOM WITH WHOM WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN A FRIENDLY AND CANDID ATMOSPHERE. GHANAIAANS, THOUGH THEY WOULD LIKE TO ASSUME THE NKRUMA NCRTLE OF AFRICAN LEADERSHIP BY TALKING MILITANTLY, ARE ESSENTIALLY MODERATE IN THEIR OUTLOOK AND DO REACT, ALBEIT SOMETIMES SLOWLY, TO OUR PRESSURESC WITNESS THEIR ABSTENTION ON THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION AND THE RECENT INDICATIONS OF THEIR INTEREST IN MODERATING GOG STAND ON KOREA.

3. IF WE BELIEVE IT IN OUR INTEREST TO CONTINUE TO SHOW DISPLEASURE WITH THE GOG WE HAVE SUCH OPTIONS AS KEEPING GHANA OFF THE SCHEDULE OF ANY IMPORTANT USG VISITOR TO WEST AFRICA, AVOIDING MEETINGS BETWEEN SENIOR GHANAIAAN VISITORS TO THE U.S. AND HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS AND LEAVING THE CHIEF OF MISSION VACANT FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD.

4. IN OUR VIEW IT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO CONTINUE OUR ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN GHANA. THE US-GHANA RELATIONSHIP HAS CONTINUED FOR MAY YEARS EVEN THROUGH DIFFICULT PERIODS SUCH AS THE LAST YEARS OF THE NKRUMAH REGIME. WHAT HAS EXISTED CONSISTENTLY IS A WARM AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GHANAIAANS AND AMERICANS WHICH IS UNKSUAL, SAVE FOR LIBERIA, IN AFRICA. BEYOND THE SIZABLE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN INVESTMENT, THIS RELATIONSHIP EXTENDS TO NUMEROUS CULTURAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND GHANAIAAN INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES, AND CITIES, AS WELL AS A VERY HEAVY TRAVEL FLOW OF PEOPLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD FOSTER THIS LONG-TERM
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RELATIONSHIP AND THAT WE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN GHANAIAANS BY UNDERTAKING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHICH WILL DIRECTLY HELP THEM. WE NOTE IN THIS RESPECT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT MADE IN HIS AUGUST 2 SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE, "WE WILL WORK WITH ALL NATIONS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT TO MAKE OUR INTERDEPENDENCE A PERIOD OF UNPARALLELED PROGRESS FOR ALL MANKIND." (PAGE 40, DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE NO. 360). WE BELIEVE THE INITIATION

OF A NEW ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE IN THAT CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. AS A RESULT OF HISTORIC TRENDS THE RURAL PEOPLE OF GHANA HAVE BEEN AND REMAIN THE LEAST FAVORED WITH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL AND OTHER SERVICES. OUR PROPOSED PROGRAMS ARE ESPECIALLY CRITICAL FOR THIS HARD -PRESSED MAJORITY OF THE POPULACE IN THE MIDST OF GHANA'S ACUTE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

6. FROM A STRICTLY PRAGMATIC POINT OF VIEW FURTHER DELAY IN INITIATING THESE ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO CREATE INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT WILL RESULT IN LAPSES AND DIFFICULTIES AS BUDGET DEADLINES PASS AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE RENEGOTIATION WITH THE CONGRESS.
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